The Call Letter

September, 2023
Volume 49 #9

Antique Radio SALE

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Presented by the Northwest Vintage Radio Society

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The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

Post Office Box 82379 Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society is a non-profit historical society incorporated in the State of Oregon. Since 1974 the Society has been dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of "Vintage Radio" and wireless equipment. Membership is open to all. The dues are $25.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year.

The Call Letter has been in print since 1974 and is a publication that informs members of the society's business and that supports the hobby of collecting, restoring and preserving vintage radios.

Society meetings are held the second Saturday of most months at the Abernethy Grange Hall at 15745 S. Harley Ave. in Oregon City, Oregon. They convene at or about 9:30 AM for the purpose of displaying radios, conducting Society business, and exchanging information. Contact a society officer to confirm the location of the next meeting. Guests are welcome at all public meetings and functions. Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, restoration classes, radio shows, and radio sales which are announced in the Call Letter and held in and around the Pacific Northwest.

With each issue of the Call Letter, we remember Jim Mason, a charter member of the society who remained active until his death in 1998. A generous bequest from Jim's estate ensures the vitality of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society, and continued publication of the Call Letter.

Society Officers

President Pat Kagi (360 909-7009) patkagi@yahoo.com
Vice President Franklin Ouchida crazykeychains@gmail.com
Treasurer Ed Tompkins (360 635-2489) edtomp@gmail.com
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Radio Repair Mentors

Members willing to mentor small groups in Radio Restoration:

Blake Dietze	360 944-7172 Vancouver
Ed Tompkins	360 635-2489 Vancouver
Mike McCrow	503 730-4639 Beaverton

President's Notes

By Pat Kagi, President

Special thanks to Christian Winfield, Franklin Ouchida, and Lee Stanford for making the Trash Bash pizza party such a success with transportation of items, plenty of food, salad, dressing, drinks and even desserts for everyone. Forgive me if I left someone out.

Also a big thank-you to Damon and friends, Don Martenson, Jake Austin, Christian and Franklin and new member Bill Howland who stayed to clean up, making sure that all Trash Bash items were taken care of.

I hope that you picked up some interesting projects and were able to get some great deals in the auction last month.

Plan to go to OMSI this year on Saturday and Sunday, September 16th and 17th, where NWVRS will have a booth to promote our society to the public, especially the younger generation.

The NWVRS Fall Swap Meet is on Saturday, September 9th in Aurora. You'll want to attend this year. If you need a table, contact Scott Thomas.

Meeting Minutes

By Scott Thomas, Secretary

The August 12, 2023 meeting of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society was short because of the tailgate swap meet and Trash Bash in the parking lot.

The president offered special thanks to Christian, and Franklin for the pizza, salads and sodas (refreshments at the Trash Bash).

Many thanks went out to Sonny Clutter for creating our Fall Swap Meet Poster (and one for OTAPS as well).

New Members: we welcomed Bruce Adlard & Bill Howland

Volunteers needed:

Drivers to transport radios to the August Auction 8/26.

Volunteers to work the booth at OMSI 9/16 & 9/17,
(demonstrate old radios and BlueTooth technologies.)

New Business:

New Roster, Pat is working on it.

PSARA Swap Meet 8/20, 50th Anniversary Pins and commemorative items. There will be a Food Truck.

There was no August featured radio display, nor "tube talk."

Meeting Adjourned.

(Tech Talks to resume at the October Meeting.)

Birthday Greetings for September

Robert Dieffenbach
Thomas Hoskins
Richard Lane
Ken Seymour
Roland Smith
Kent Sturdevant

If you'd rather not have your birthday recognized in the Newsletter please let the board members know at patkagi@yahoo.com

Roving Reporter at Powerland !

From Bill Weigel

The weather during the first day of the Steam-up was too temperate to ignore, so Brian [Toon] and I decided to skip the Chehalis meet and went South instead. The Powerland Heritage Park consists of 14 different museums situated on 62 acres of land. The Steam-up brings out almost every type of mechanized farm equipment that has been used through the years from steam to diesel, and there is always something interesting you see while circling the grounds. Check out their web site for details and more information at: www.antiquepowerland.com .

At 9:00AM there is a Flag Raising ceremony with the National Anthem sung live, (and well done this year); hats come off, people stand and silence prevails. The appeal of old-fashioned values is alive and well. Every age is represented, and it is wonderful to see how many youngsters are continuing the tradition of taking care of these mechanical treasures. Country folk and city folk from miles around get acquainted while watching a demonstration of a hay baler that would give OSHA nightmares for a year. Here, it is just great fun.

The Flea Market is in the North part of the park and lacks shade, but there are a lot of spaces and you can find anything from arts and crafts, to tools and even vintage radios. There were several Bakelite radios, but nothing that I was interested in, so I didn't check their condition. There was also a Sonora battery set with a matching horn speaker cabinet (though no driver) that I don't remember ever seeing before, but it was too big, so I passed. No old transistor radios this year that I noticed. I don't count the aged Bose clock radio that was guaranteed to work. In what I consider a perfect outcome, Brian bought some tools, and all that I bought was lunch. The lemonade was excellent.

It was definitely closer to home than Chehalis.

Lubricate or Not?

(RCA Victor Plain Talk and Technical Tips, March 1965)

Contributed by Lud Sibley

Very often service problems arise because of too much lubrication, too little lubrication, and the lubrication of parts which should be free of lubrication.

By following three simple rules the majority of mechanical devices can be properly maintained by the service technician. The secret of knowing when and where to lubricate can be generalized as follows:

Slow-moving parts are lubricated with heavy-grade oil; fast-moving parts are lubricated with a light non-gumming oil, and sliding parts - when lubrication is required - are lubricated with a clinging oil.

It is important that the correct type of lubrication as well as the correct amount be employed.

The grease used on sliding surfaces should have a high melting point along with a medium consistency at room temperature; a grease that has a low melting point is likely to flow when the record changer or tape recorder heats up in use. A lubricant that has been found to be satisfactory for this purpose is "Cosmolube #1."

The trip slide of record changers requires no lubricant. This item is loose-fitting and very light in weight. It is moved by the stylus riding in the record groove and serves to move only the trip pawl on the cycling gear. The addition of lubricant to the trip slide may cause dust to collect and necessitate an increased force to move it. If binding should occur as a result of a bent slide, replace the slide. (Lubrication is not a cure.)

No lubricant should be used on the pawls of the cycling gear. A light spring is used to restrict movement of these pawls. The pawls must be free enough to move from the force exerted by the movement of the trip slide but not free enough to move as the result of vibration. The application of oil to the tripping surface may temporarily correct a failure to trip, but the accumulation of

dust on the oiled surfaces will later cause a recurrence of the trouble. Another example of "no lubrication" would be the drive belt used in the TCT-3 cartridge tape recorder. It is made of special material and should be cleaned only with soap and water.

Oil on rubber tire surfaces and rubber drive belts can deteriorate these parts due to the chemical action of the oil, and dust accumulation on over-oiled surfaces can cause more serious problems than the lack of lubrication. Avoid the use of solvents for oil/grease since these agents can also react with rubber parts. When cleaning record-playback or erase heads of tape recorders, use a soft cloth, cotton swab, or pipe cleaner, moistened in alcohol; do not use a brush as damage to the plastic portion of the head will result. When any mechanical part is replaced, clean the associated parts and re-lubricate them. This will insure a smooth-operating mechanism. Remember, the use of lubricants is not a "cure-all" for mechanical defects.

Swap Shop

Wanted: I need two vintage radio wooden cabinets to house two battery sets. They both need to fit a front panel that is 7” high and 24” wide. - Dick Howard Howard27@Comcast.net

For Sale: I’ve got hundreds of radio tubes for sale. I’d like to sell large lots.-- Contact Tony Ranft at 360-944-8489

I need both of the metal escutcheons for a Crosley 6V2. If you have some lying around, let me know. PatKagi@yahoo.com

Remember Your First Time?

We are asking members to recount their "first time" at a given antique store, or junk shop, or swap meet; or your "First Find" at a garage sale or flea market. Please contribute a story, so that others can enjoy your "***first time***?" Send me a paragraph or two about the memories. Send it to the editor at relivingradio@karmans.net.

First "Radio Repair"

By Bob Walters

My name is Bob Walters, (you can call me anything, except *Late for Dinner*).

Between the Fall of 1951 to the late spring of 1953, I attended an all-boy boarding school called St. Martins High School. It was considered one, maybe two steps above a reform school! When I was a senior (1952 -1953), I got interested in radios. I had the remains of a Philco Tombstone. The chassis was mounted in the top half of a wooden orange crate and the speaker was fastened on a piece of cardboard and nailed to the bottom of the orange crate. There was about a 300-foot antenna that wasn't allowed, although, one priest knew about it, (Father Sabastian Ruth OSB - W7YS- more about him, later).

I also fixed an amplifier or two and sent away for the *Progressive Radio Edu-Kit*. I was fooled by the advertisement. I didn't know I had to take one receiver apart to build another! Christmas 1952, my dad bought a Heathkit V6 VTVM. I was on my way - - sort of!

Part of my *First Time* stories should include my first exposure to Amateur Radio. When I first 'entered' St. Martins, there was a door that led to a room under the stairs to the third floor. On it was a faded gold leaf letters stating **W7YS**.

One time I saw this elderly priest entering the room, so I asked, "Does W7YS mean what I think it means, Father?"

"What do you think it means?"

"A ham radio call."

He invited me in and there it was. A home brew transmitter, a receiver, and the walls were covered with QSL cards from all over the world. That is how I made the acquaintance of Father Sebastian Ruth.

That brings me to the **FIRST TIME** Radio. In those years, St Martins had a recreation room in the basement under the library. There were surplus navy chairs there, the kind you saw in the movies when the pilots were in the ready room (military surplus). A TV was there that got KING-TV Seattle – most of the time.

There was a radio in the room. It was an Atwater Kent model 447 tabletop radio that didn't work. The name Atwater Kent meant nothing to me, but the fact it didn't work was a challenge. Well, . . my classes should have been a challenge, but….

The cabinet was painted (not well) a grotesque red and gold. Now, I doubt if the cabinet could ever be cleaned up and look like this recent photo of a 447. I took it to my room and pulled the chassis and proceeded to clean and oil the band changing mechanism and the dial tuning. Of course, there was no schematic available.

The school was in a town called Lacey and the big city was Olympia. People picked up kids hitchhiking in those days! I went to a radio/tv repair place and asked about it. Sam's didn't go back that far and he said something about Rider which meant nothing to me at the time.

I noticed one of the tubes didn't glow. Using my new VTVM, I found my first open filament – a 58! So, back to the radio store. We were NOT supposed to leave the school grounds during the week, but… The radio repair guy said he didn't have one. Apparently, there wasn't much call for 2.5 volt filament tubes. He suggested I go to a furniture store that sold radios and TV's. I did

and I was allowed into their stock of trade in radios. (Today, that would be a gold mine.) I found one [tube], paid ten cents and headed back to the school.

The radio worked!!!! Of course, I knew it would. After all, I was a senior in high school and I knew all that there was to know! We listened to WWV, Radio Moscow, ham radio, and all that was on the short wave bands at that time. That radio replaced the Philco and I used it until I graduated. When I was packing my stuff, the prefect came in and said, "The radio stays!" I lost my first find.

Back to Father Sabastian: In my second year at St. Martins, I was trying to learn the code with a key and a buzzer. Classes started at 8 am, so I could practice from about 7:45. Little did I know that the 300 foot antenna would pick up the 'make n break' of the buzzer. When I returned from my 8 o'clock class, my room had three priests looking at my desk and the practice key.

Father Sebastian asked what was I doing before 8 o'clock?

I told him, "Trying to learn the code, Father."

"Don't do it at that time, we're listening to the news and all we hear is you!" (I never did learn the code!)

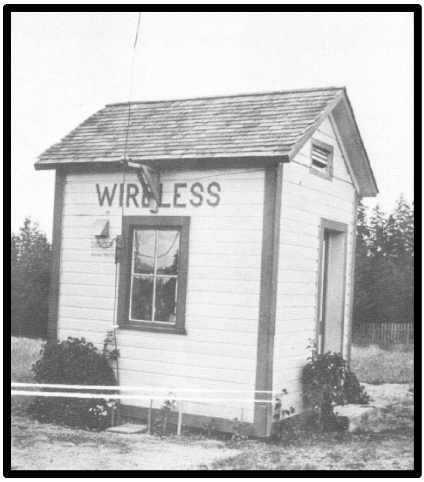
Father Sabastian was also involved in another "first." He invited me to one of the Army Surplus barracks that were on lower campus. There was one corner of the place that had piles of surplus electronics. He handed me about three RU radio chassis and told me to take them apart and note how they're constructed. A great lesson; I fell in love with military surplus.

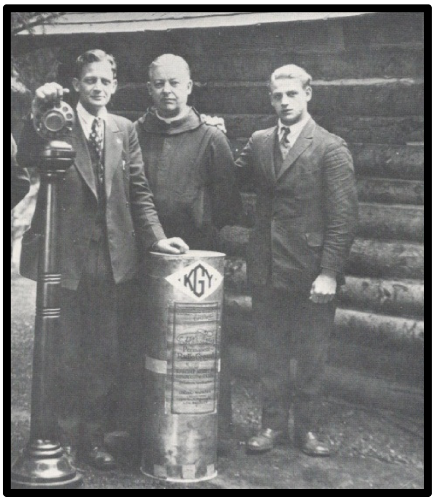
This story from Bob Walters brought back memories of the history of broadcast radio in the Puget Sound region. Following up on Benedictine Monk Sebastian Ruth, brought me to claims of one of the "oldest U.S. Radio stations" located right here in Lacey, Washington. The following pages honor the memory of what Father Sebastian Ruth started over 100 years ago.

KGY

KGY (Lacey, Washington) is reported by many to be the first radio signal commercially transmitted in Western Washington.

(photos from the book, Puget Sounds Superior Press 1981)





In the "wireless shack" pictured above, Father Sabastian Ruth (in center of photo to left) set up his first gear in 1914 as 7CM. In 1916 it was changed to 7YS to indicate a college campus. In 1922 he licensed KGY and moved into the log cabin building atop the "College hill" where there was room for performers and entertainers to visit the station.

In 1932 the station was moved to the Capital Park Building by the new owner Archie Taft.

Following is some insight into KGY in the mid-1930s. This is taken from a history book written by David Richardson, "Puget Sounds" (1981, Superior Press).

Richardson recounts some of his time in radio as he got to know certain "on air" personalities.

> I got to know and work with Earl Thoms, who actually was KGY's only announcer back in those hungry years.
>
> Talk about a full-time job! Earl came in at sign-on each morning and stayed until sign-off at night, day in and day out, with no provision at all for days off, vacations or sick leave. He read all the commercials and played all the records. In "spare" moments he repaired any equipment that broke down, answered the telephone, rewrote ads and kept the floor swept.
>
> If the transmitter needed major work, he had to stay even later at night and get that done too. Earl's wife would bring him meals from home twice a day, on the city bus, cradling hot dishes in a covered sauce pan on her lap, or in Mason jars wrapped in newspaper. They would visit briefly while Earl wolfed down these repasts between announcements, and they probably reflected on how fortunate he was to be working. That's how it was in the thirties.
>
> Not all stations were like KGY, of course. Earl Thoms got paid a fair wage in real cash. Some operations couldn't afford that and handed out merchandise collected from advertisers in return for commercial time.
>
> KGY's news department was the fellow who ran the coffee shop downstairs. He'd come up to the studio and read news he'd scrounged somewhere-probably out of the daily paper- in return for plugging the coffee shop.
>
> There were two other people working at KGY. Ricky Bras, the manager, spent most of his time drumming up

business around town. And there was a girl receptionist who kept the accounts, scheduled commercials and wrote up the "spots" that Bras phoned in.

Ricky Bras was actually a musician- a fine pianist and singer. The receptionist-bookkeeper-continuity writer had a nice voice, too, and Earl himself could carry a decent tune when called on. The three of them put on a live show early each morning. Songs and patter. time and weather reports. bad jokes and pickle dish ads. That was small-time radio in the Depression.

Earl Thoms, an unflappable youth with black, black hair and the debonair shadow of a mustache, had been bitten by the radio bug in the late twenties. Between stints as a shipboard wireless operator he had worked briefly for a couple of small record stations in Seattle. His ambition was to get on with KOL, the big CBS-Don Lee outlet owned by Archie Taft. It happens that Taft [at this time] was also the owner of KGY.

So Earl was sent to work in Olympia with the promise of a job at KOL, eventually, if he "behaved himself."

Taft made good his promise after three years or so. Earl moved to KOL about the time the station lost CBS, and remained there until the war broke out. Still doubling and tripling “in brass”, he was variously sound effects man, studio engineer, transmitter operator, and announcer.

According to Wikipedia:

On October 14, 2014, KGY was sold for $250,000 by KGY Inc. to Sacred Heart Radio, Inc

On November 6, 2014, KGY's call letters were changed to KBUP. Currently, there are no AM radio stations officially assigned the KGY call sign.

Sources:
Puget Sounds, Superior Press 1981;
KGY History KGYFM.com;
OlympiaHistory.org ;

100 Years Ago

Submitted by Charter Member Art Redman
(from the Oregon Journal March 1922)

Journal Radio News Praised Many Inquire about Service

"The radio news report of The Journal sent out last night was the most perfectly modulated radio that I have ever received out of Portland."

This was telephoned to Stubbs & Co. this morning from North Yamhill, and referred to the first broadcast of The Journal's news bulletins made by Hallock & Watson Radio Service (KGG).

The initial broadcasting of the new KGG station was known to be exceptionally successful within the first few minutes that the report was being transmitted. The first to call up was Dr. Kari P. Moran from his home on the west slope of Mount Tabor. Then came several people who did not leave their name. Willard P. Hawley Jr. before broadcasting his concert numbers, called by telephone and congratulated the senders on the excellence of their modulation.

The Journal is in receipt of more letters complimenting its service. One of particular interest is that of Richard Waggoner of 714 Glisan street. Waggoner says under date of March 28: "I received your last evening's news report transmitted by XF (Charles L Austin of the Northwestern Radio Mfg. Co.) 10 feet away from the head telephones my receiver is of the honeycomb type using one stage of amplifier and Baldwin telephones. My set is almost entirely homemade. I use A. P. tubes.

According to J. H. Hallock, radio engineer, hearing 10 feet from the earphones with one stage of amplifier and by means of a home-made set is a very creditable achievement.

The Journal's news broadcast is having some very radical results in increasing the demand for radio sets by people both

inside and outside of Portland who want to install instruments in order to get The Journal's news bulletins.

One communication comes from a former business man who said that he wanted it for his wife, who is an invalid. It is his idea to install an instrument alongside her bed so that she can listen in whenever she chooses and while away some of the monotonous hours with radio entertainment. A rancher who lives in the mountains of Eastern Clackamas desired information about radio.

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